



Gregory Peter Gruenenfelder

February 21, 1959 - November 21, 2016

Gregory P. Gruenenfelder, age 57, of Hobart, formerly of Miller, passed away in Valparaiso, IN on November 21, 2016. Greg was mentally disabled from birth but suffered no disability at all in getting the most out of life. He loved Volkswagen Beetles, but only the original variety. He had no use at all for the modern imitations. Greg could sit for hours looking at that rear-mounted, air-cooled engine. When a real one was not available, a good photograph would do. His favorite gift of all time was a junked VW Beetle that an uncle towed from Toledo to Gary and dropped off in the driveway of Greg's home. Greg was also fascinated with clothes dryers. Before he learned how to cook pasta, he was small enough to climb inside the dryer drum and rock himself back and forth. The funniest thing in the world to Greg was to watch his sister explode an inflated balloon by sitting on it. He loved his mother dearly and was always happy to play "lion" with her, or with anyone else who would be scared by his wild-animal noises. Greg was such a connoisseur of classical music that we had to ask him to turn it off at dinner time so we could talk. He thoroughly enjoyed attending Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts with both parents. Greg had a long association with ARC Northwest Indiana, loyally participating in their programs for over 35 years.

He is survived by his sister, Rev. Vivian Dawn Gruenenfelder, two brothers, Paul and Thomas (Kay Mueller) Gruenenfelder, and numerous caregivers from Respite Care Services. Greg was preceded in death by his parents, Jack

and Mildred Gruenenfelder, and two brothers, David and John Gruenenfelder.

Funeral service for Greg will be Monday, November 28, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., DIRECTLY at St. Mary of the Lake Church, 6060 Miller Avenue, Gary (Miller), Bishop Emeritus Dale E. Melczek officiating. Friends may visit with his family on Sunday from 2-5:00 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 701 East 7th Street, Hobart and at the church on Monday from 9-10:00 a.m. Interment Calvary Cemetery, Portage. Contributions may be made to Respite Care Services, 9000 Indianapolis Boulevard, Highland IN 46322. www.burnsfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2701 Willowdale Road
Portage, IN 46368

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home - Hobart
701 E. 7th Street
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 942-1117
info@burnsfuneral.com
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Visitation

NOV 28. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Lake Church
6060 Miller Avenue
Gary, IN

Funeral Service

NOV **28**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Lake Church
6060 Miller Avenue
Gary, IN

Tribute Wall

MB

“ I first met the Gruenenfelder Boys working at a LCARC Summer Camp in the early 1970s. I learned the special love you can have for such special people. I give the boys and their family credit for teaching me how to treat the mentally disabled which allowed me to make special friendships with the mentally disabled students I worked with for 22 years, as a school secretary. I am so grateful. And so very sorry for your loss.

Missy Bianchi - November 25, 2016 at 07:06 PM